

9602092

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Arthur Jr. & Louise Ridgely Farmstead Survey Number: PG: 72-43

Project: Metrorail: Addison Rd. to Largo and Redskins Stadium Agency: MTA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no     yes Name                                      Date                     

Eligibility recommended            Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria:    A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G    None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Ridgely Farmstead is located at 8302-8304 Central Avenue, at the northwest corner of the intersection of Central Avenue and Summerfield Boulevard between Seat Pleasant and Largo, in Prince George's County, MD. The property, consisting of two main houses, a tenant house, tobacco barn, privy, corncrib, garage and shed accessed by a common drive, is not eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

One of the houses (8302 Central Avenue) may have been constructed in the early 20th century and moved to the site. The one-story frame structure has a cross gable roof and features a porch with tapered wood posts with scroll-sawn knee brackets. The easternmost of the two main houses (8304 Central Avenue) is a more modest, one-story, gable front house, probably dating to the mid-twentieth century. The outbuildings include an early to mid-20th century tobacco barn with a gable roof and vertical board siding; a mid-twentieth century frame, gable-roofed garage; a small frame shed with a gable roof; a frame privy with a shed roof and vertical siding; a frame corn crib; and a one-story, gable-front, concrete block building which may have served as a tenant house.

The farmstead is an example of the small tobacco and truck farms common in southern Maryland during the first half of the twentieth century. This property was original part of a larger 52 acre farm owned by the Ridgely family since 1871. The Ridgelys were a prominent local african american family that helped to found the nearby Ridgely Church, Social Hall, and Ridgely School in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Arthur Ridgely, Jr. purchased a small parcel from his father in 1935 and in the 1940s added additional acreage and buildings.

Although the property appears to be an intact example of a modest, mid-20th-century vernacular farmstead, little is known of the property type in this period. The context for african american farms of this period is even more obscure. Based on the available information, the property does not appear to be individually eligible. It lacks the architectural distinctiveness to qualify for listing on the National Register under Criterion C. Although linked in a general way to a locally important african american family, the property is not known to have any associations with specific significant persons or events and does not, therefore, qualify for listing under Criteria A or B. Lastly, it is located in a heavily developed area that would not constitute an historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory Form PG: 72-43

Prepared by: Gabrielle Lanier, KCI; Margaret Slater, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas

Kimberly Prothro Williams/EAH

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

June 20, 1996

Date

R program concurrence: X yes     no     not applicable

Peter E. Kury  
Reviewer, NR program

6/26/96  
Date

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT****I. Geographic Region:**

<u>      </u>	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<u>  X  </u>	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<u>      </u>	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<u>      </u>	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

<u>      </u>	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<u>      </u>	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<u>      </u>	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<u>      </u>	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<u>      </u>	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<u>      </u>	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<u>      </u>	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<u>      </u>	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<u>      </u>	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<u>      </u>	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<u>      </u>	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<u>  X  </u>	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<u>      </u>	Unknown Period ( <u>      </u> prehistoric <u>      </u> historic)	

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

<u>      </u>	Subsistence
<u>      </u>	Settlement
<u>      </u>	Political
<u>      </u>	Demographic
<u>      </u>	Religion
<u>      </u>	Technology
<u>      </u>	Environmental Adaptation

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

<u>  X  </u>	Agriculture
<u>  X  </u>	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<u>      </u>	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<u>      </u>	Government/Law
<u>      </u>	Military
<u>      </u>	Religion
<u>      </u>	Social/Educational/Cultural
<u>      </u>	Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**Category: BuildingsHistoric Environment: RuralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling; Agricultural-storage,  
outbuilding

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

PG:72-43

Arthur Jr. & Louise Ridgely Farmstead

8302-8304 Central Avenue (MD 214), Landover

Lanham quadrangle

